Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Fayette County Schools

Math in the Real World: Video podcasts

Michael Scott's research suggests that students retain 90% of what they teach to others (1990). In keeping with that research, this project encourages students to improve learning by teaching others. Specifically, high school math students will create video podcasts that teach math concepts to middle school and elementary students. The podcasts will incorporate local real-world explanations and illustrations.

Having high school students produce the podcasts addresses multiple learning needs. Students will address math standards as they review concepts, explain processes, and apply them to concrete situations. As part of production, students will address E/LA standards as they organize and write for a specific audience; explain concepts in clear, simple terms; and use Standard English. The students will also develop 21st century digital presentation skills. Each of these areas of teaching and learning supports the goals and strategies of our PL 221 Plan. Our focus, however, is on development of math concepts.

Elementary and middle school students who watch these podcasts will benefit from an engaging presentation done by local people, possibly people they know. This will help meet the needs of interpersonal learners. The podcasts will also use local places and situations, giving a familiar context to the concept being introduced.

The podcasts will be uploaded from the high school to a school server, so they will be available when the middle and elementary classrooms are ready for them. Fayette County School Corporation teachers will be able to download and use them in class. Students can download them to iPods, Zunes, or other MP3 players; or they can access them from home for review or as make-up work. Local references will make the podcasts engaging to Fayette County students, and the podcasts will be available via the Internet to schools everywhere.

We expect to see improved achievement as measured on standardized tests like NWEA and ISTEP.